

# 2021 Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning



**February 7-9, 2021**  
**Virtual Conference Agenda**  
**#TCVSL21**



# Welcome!

Dear Service Leaders,

In times of change, we often ponder the question, “What can I really do to make a difference?” 2020 was a year that brought many challenges and changes from an average year. It also truly demonstrated the importance of service to others. Volunteer Tennessee is honored to still gather service leaders from across the state to share their collective knowledge during the 2021 virtual Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning. If you are participating in this conference, we know you are serving as an agent of positive change in your community.

We hope conference participants can connect and learn from those sharing their service experiences and come away with new ideas and adaptations for ways to strengthen service and change our communities.

Thank you for your engagement and participation in our first virtual conference. We are proud of the service providers in our Volunteer State and are excited you could join us virtually.

Thank you for your service and enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Volunteer Tennessee and the Conference Planning Committee

**Serve.  
Learn.  
Change.**

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# Conference Schedule at-a-Glance

**Sunday, February 7**

TIME	EVENT
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Ceremony 1 (Anderson – Grainger Counties)
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Ceremony 2 (Greene – Marshall Counties)
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Ceremony 3 (McMinn – Wilson Counties)

**Monday, February 8**

TIME	EVENT	Track/Theme
8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Corporate Social Responsibility Track (Closed Meeting)</a>	CSR Track
9:00-9:20 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks from Volunteer Tennessee</b>	
9:30-10:20 a.m.	Workshop Session #1	
	A Guide to Writing Successful Proposals for Service-Learning Grants	Service-Learning & Civic Leadership
	Volunteerism in the Pandemic and After	Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building
	Remember the Member: Building Member Agency, Leadership and Recognition	Service as a Solution
10:35-11:25 a.m.	Workshop Session #2	
	Showing Up for Service: Intent vs Impact	Service-Learning & Civic Leadership
	TN Fosters Hope - A Collaborative Success Story	Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building
	The Peace Corps Volunteer Experience: Conversation on the Peace Corps Volunteer's Role While Serving in Mexico	Service as a Solution
11:30 a.m.-11:50 a.m.	<b>Award of Excellence Recognition</b>	
11:50 a.m.-12:20 p.m.	<b>Break</b>	
12:20-1:10 p.m.	Workshop Session #3	
	#Toto, I Have a Feeling We Aren't in Kansas Anymore	Service-Learning & Civic Leadership
	ALL In: Making Room for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion in Volunteerism	Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building
	You want me to Volunteer Inside a Jail?: Lessons Learned While Launching a Volunteer Program in a Challenging Environment	Service as a Solution
1:25-2:15 p.m.	Workshop Session #4	
	NEW START and Taking Care of Ourselves so We Can Serve Others	Service-Learning & Civic Leadership
	Pivoting in a Pandemic	Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building
	Silver Linings, An AmeriCorps Intermediary's Program Innovations During A Most Unusual Year	Service as a Solution

## Monday, February 8 (continued)

<b>1:30-2:20 p.m.</b>	Nonprofit and Business Partnership Discussions	Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building
<b>2:30-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Networking Session &amp; Closing Remarks</b>	
<b>2:30-5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Student Track</b>	
2:30-3:05 p.m.	DEFINE * SEEK. * SERVE	Student Track
3:20-3:55 p.m.	Serving Through the Four H's	Student Track
4:10-5:30 p.m.	Students and Service: A Collaborative Session	Student Track

## Tuesday, February 9-Higher Education Faculty Track

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Track/Theme</b>
<b>9:00-9:50 a.m.</b>	Serving Virtually in the Online Classroom	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #1
<b>10:05-10:55 a.m.</b>	Am I Crazy to Do This? Employing Last Minute Service-Learning Opportunities into a Course	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #2
<b>11:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</b>	RD2B Tower Gardening Produce	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #3
<b>12:00-12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>12:30-1:20 p.m.</b>	Can You Teach Diversity? An Exercise in Education and Empowerment via Service-Learning	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #4
<b>1:35-2:25 p.m.</b>	Engaging Premier Partners to Promote Community Needs as well as Student Project Ideas	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #5
<b>2:40-3:30 p.m.</b>	20/20 Vision: Improving Community Literacy through Collaboration and Service	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #6

# Workshops by Track

## Service-Learning & Civic Leadership

Workshop	Session
A Guide to Writing Successful Proposals for Service-Learning Grants	#1
NEW START and Taking Care of Ourselves so We Can Serve Others	#4
Showing Up for Service: Intent vs Impact	#2
#Toto, I Have a Feeling We Aren't in Kansas Anymore	#3

## Higher Education Faculty Track

Workshop	Session
20/20 Vision: Improving Community Literacy through Collaboration and Service	#6
Am I Crazy to Do This? Employing Last Minute Service-Learning Opportunities into a Course	#2
Can You Teach Diversity? An Exercise in Education and Empowerment via Service-Learning	#4
Engaging Premier Partners to Promote Community Needs as well as Student Project Ideas	#5
RD2B Tower Gardening Produce	#3
Serving Virtually in the Online Classroom	#1

## Service as a Solution

Workshop	Session
The Peace Corps Volunteer Experience: Conversation on the Peace Corps Volunteer's Role While Serving in Mexico	#2
Remember the Member: Building Member Agency, Leadership and Recognition	#1
Silver Linings, An AmeriCorps Intermediary's Program Innovations During A Most Unusual Year	#4
You want me to Volunteer Inside a Jail?: Lessons Learned While Launching a Volunteer Program in a Challenging Environment	#3

## Student Track

Workshop	Session
DEFINE * SEEK. * SERVE	#1
Serving Through the Four H's	#2
Students and Service: A Collaborative Session	#3

## Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building

Workshop	Session
ALL In: Making Room for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion in Volunteerism	#3
Nonprofit and Business Partnership Discussions	#4
Pivoting in a Pandemic	#4
TN Fosters Hope - A Collaborative Success Story	#2
Volunteerism in the Pandemic and After	#1

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# Conference Information

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## Conference Host



**Volunteer Tennessee** is a 25-member, bi-partisan board that encourages volunteerism and community service. Annually, Volunteer Tennessee provides more than \$6 million in AmeriCorps grants and volunteer center grants to local agencies throughout the state so they can engage volunteers to meet community needs in education, environment, public safety, human needs, and homeland security.

According to the latest available data, Tennessee has 1.6 million volunteers who contribute 137.7 million hours of service each year. The economic impact to local communities totals \$3.3 billion annually.

## Conference Partner



**The Tennessee Service-Learning Consortium (TN-SLC)** is a non-profit membership association of colleges and universities committed to promoting active citizenship as an aim of higher education. Founded by institutional service-learning representatives across the state, the TN-SLC provides leadership in advocating, supporting, and increasing student involvement in academic and co-curricular-based public service.

In partnership with the TN-SLC, the conference includes a Higher Education Faculty Track for college and university participants.

## THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

### Friend of Service Sponsor:



### Affiliate Sponsor:



Tennessee 4-H

**A special “thank you” to the following for their individual conference sponsorship:**

Jennifer Abernathy  
Jason Scott

## Follow TCVSL on Social Media!

Like us on Facebook for Conference updates and announcements:

**[fb.me/VolunteerTennessee](https://fb.me/VolunteerTennessee)**  
**[fb.me/TCVSL](https://fb.me/TCVSL)**

Follow us on Twitter:

**[@VolunteerTN](https://twitter.com/VolunteerTN)**  
**[@TNserviceconf](https://twitter.com/TNserviceconf)**

Follow us on Instagram: **[@VolunteerTennessee](https://www.instagram.com/VolunteerTennessee)**

Follow conference conversations by using the hashtag **#TCVSL21**

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**Sunday, February 7**

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**12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Ceremony  
1 (Anderson – Grainger Counties)**

**1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Ceremony  
2 (Greene – Marshall Counties)**

**3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards Ceremony  
3 (McMinn – Wilson Counties)**



*Volunteer Tennessee is honored to host the Thirteenth Annual Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards during the 2021 Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning. Each exceptional Volunteer Star was chosen for their innovative approach and generous commitment to improving their community. More than 80 honorees from across the state will be recognized for their efforts.*

*Tune in to the awards presentations to hear about the accomplishments of these outstanding volunteers.*



The best way to find  
yourself is to lose  
yourself in the  
service of others.

Mahatma Gandhi





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# Monday, February 8

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## Schedule at-a-Glance

9:00 AM – 9:20 AM	<b>Opening Remarks from Volunteer Tennessee</b>
8:45 AM – 2:30 PM	Corporate Social Responsibility Program (closed)
9:30 AM – 10:20 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION #1
10:35 AM – 11:25 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION #2
11:30 AM – 11:50 AM	<b>Award of Excellence Recognition</b>
11:50 AM – 12:20 PM	Break
12:20 PM – 1:10 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION #3
1:25 PM – 2:15 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION #4
1:30 PM – 2:20 PM	CSR Session: Nonprofit and Business Partnership Discussions
2:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Student Track
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Networking Session & Closing Remarks

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# Monday Details

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**9:00-9:20 a.m.**

## **Opening Remarks from Volunteer Tennessee**

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**9:30-10:20 a.m.**

## **WORKSHOP SESSION 1**

### **A Guide to Writing Successful Proposals for Service-Learning Grants**

James Thompson, Assistant Professor, Austin Peay State University

Service-learning is an effective instructional strategy to incorporate kinesthetic learning into the classroom, but it can also be costly. To combat this dilemma, educators can research external funding opportunities and submit grant proposals that can potentially fund the service-learning project.

This grant writing workshop will provide participants with a snapshot of required elements from transforming a service-learning idea to writing a successful grant proposal that is funded. Participants will be engaged throughout this interactive workshop through sharing of ideas and completing a portion of the grant application. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants should be able to attain the following learning objectives: (1) Define and examine components of a grant application; (2) Develop a problem statement, SMART goals, and objectives that are aligned with a service-learning project; and (3) Create methods and procedures that are aligned to the objectives.

**Level:** Introductory

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### **Volunteerism in the Pandemic and After**

Andrea Hill, Director of Volunteer Memphis, Leadership Memphis

Exploring the need for volunteerism and the management of volunteers during COVID-19. Pivoting from in person to virtual while maintaining engagement.

**Level:** Introductory

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### **Remember the Member: Building Member Agency, Leadership and Recognition**

Cole McMahon, McMahon Consulting Group, LLC

If you run an AmeriCorps program, imagine for a moment that you are operating at maximum effectiveness. Your members are amazing, and they are getting things done. The question is, how do you build that culture? In this session we'll discuss great ideas from around the country. Special attention will be paid to lessons from AmeriCorps program evaluations about how members have the most impact and best experience. Participants will leave the session with ideas and tools that can be implemented right away.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**10:35-11:25 a.m.**

## **WORKSHOP SESSION 2**

### **Showing Up for Service: Intent vs Impact**

Caitlin Lloyd, AmeriCorps Team Lead, Bridge Builders AmeriCorps

Jake Lacey, AmeriCorps State & National Member, Bridge Builders AmeriCorps

Tonya Reece, AmeriCorps Program Director, Bridge Builders AmeriCorps

This session will explore the impact of helping, fixing, and serving within communities; the importance of asset-based community service; and the effects of implicit bias on service. Participants will leave with a knowledge of the positive impact asset-based service work has versus the unintentional harm from a needs driven mindset.

**Level:** Intermediate

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### **TN Fosters Hope - A Collaborative Success Story**

Dave Worland, Executive Director, The Governor's Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives

Kristin Allender, Executive Director, Tennessee Kids Belong

Jennifer Nichols, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Holly Nichols, Foster Parent

In Tennessee, more than 9,000 children are in foster care and 350 are seeking adoptive homes. TN Fosters Hope is a statewide initiative focused on engaging the faith community to care for children and families whose lives have been disrupted by the breakdown of family connections. Community leaders from the Department of Children's Services, nonprofits dedicated to healthy families, and churches with a strong presence in the foster/adoptive system, will challenge your ideas about how government agencies, nonprofits and faith communities can work together to change hearts and lives.

**Level:** Intermediate

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### **The Peace Corps Volunteer Experience: Conversation on the Peace Corps Volunteer's Role While Serving in Mexico**

Jesse Fowler, Graduate Student, Indiana University Bloomington

Robert Porto, Software Developer, Independent Scholar

Edward Wells, Adjunct Instructor, University of the People

This panel session will describe, deconstruct, and deliberate what it truly means to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV). The panelists will briefly describe how they served in Mexico, sharing what is and is not characteristic of the Peace Corps, and how such traits determine the PCV's role as an apolitical actor working for Washington in a foreign nation, culture, and language. Attendees will gain knowledge on how the PCV and locals must collaborate for bold, sustainable change for a better tomorrow; how the PCV serves within a system of two different work cultures, expectations, superiors, and power dynamics; and how to serve others during the unexpected, such as mandated repatriation because of global evacuation and border closing in response to COVID-19.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**11:30 a.m.-11:50 a.m.**

## **Recognition of the 2020 Award of Excellence Honorees**

The Volunteer Tennessee Award of Excellence program provides an opportunity for K-12 schools to be recognized for outstanding work in the areas of service, service-learning, and volunteerism. This video presentation with remarks from First Lady Maria Lee will recognize the following 2020 Award of Excellence recipients:

- Beacon Academy
- Central Magnet School
- Fayette Academy
- Jackson Central-Merry Early College High School
- South Knoxville Elementary
- Unaka High School
- Union Elementary STEAM and Demonstration School
- University School of Nashville
- Whitwell High School

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**11:50 a.m.-12:20 p.m.**

## **Break**

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**12:20-1:10 p.m.**

## **WORKSHOP SESSION 3**

### **#Toto, I Have a Feeling We Aren't in Kansas Anymore**

Terry Silver, Associate Professor, The University of Tennessee at Martin  
Chip Harris, Education Consultant

It may appear that service learning has become outdated – nice to have, but not at all possible given the current chaos surrounding back-to-school plans and safety dilemmas during the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, we feel there are many ways to continue service-learning (E-service learning) and garner the massive potential to transform communities and online learning! In this workshop we will share resources and ideas for E-service through engaging online activities.

**Level:** Intermediate

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### **ALL In: Making Room for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion in Volunteerism**

Andrea Hill, Director of Volunteer Memphis, Leadership Memphis  
Charlotte Brown, AmeriCorps VISTA Program Manager, City of Memphis

There is value in Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI). This session will explore how to build a robust recruitment and retention plan that includes DEAI.

**Level:** Introductory

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## **You want me to Volunteer Inside a Jail?: Lessons Learned While Launching a Volunteer Program in a Challenging Environment**

Susan Pruitt-O'Daniel, Director of Re-entry Services, South Central TN Workforce Alliance

Bucky Rowland, Sheriff of Maury County, Maury County Sheriff's Department

Volunteering inside a jail is for those special individuals who are seeking an experience that provides support to the most marginal in our society. Many inmates in our Tennessee facilities are experiencing mental health issues that are exacerbated by addiction and a lack of community and family support. The needs are great, the burn out is real and the challenges are many. For anyone recruiting, coordinating or seeking to volunteer inside these facilities, there are countless opportunities and challenges. This workshop will share "Lessons Learned and Best Practices" from one Tennessee and one Sheriff and Re-entry Coordinator that started from scratch and grew their program into a model for the state.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**1:25-2:15 p.m.**

## **WORKSHOP SESSION 4**

### **NEW START and Taking Care of Ourselves so We Can Serve Others**

Isa Baez, Beacon Academy Student

Camryn Tijerina, Beacon Academy Student

COVID-19 has changed the ways we serve, but not the need for it. Beacon Academy's NEWSTART (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, & Trust) Health Class Curriculum focuses on taking care of ourselves so we can help others. Join Beacon Academy staff and students for this overview of the program and how can benefit service-learning efforts.

**Level:** Introductory

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### **Silver Linings, An AmeriCorps Intermediary's Program Innovations During A Most Unusual Year**

Jason Scott, Program Director, CAC AmeriCorps

Christine Doka, Assistant Program Director, CAC AmeriCorps

Leah Fontaine, VISTA Leader, CAC AmeriCorps

CAC AmeriCorps is an AmeriCorps intermediary program that has placed members with community partners in East Tennessee since 1994. They've seen a few things over the years: government shutdowns, wildfires, but nothing quite like what 2020 held in store. During a year that was characterized by a somberness and unrest that is tough to shake, CAC AmeriCorps, like many of their peers, has been challenged to figure out novel and creative methods to bring people together even when the circumstances in which they operate limit or eliminate traditional approaches to doing so. The silver lining is that CAC AmeriCorps discovered new process improvements and new ways to connect that will endure into the future.

**Level:** Intermediate

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### **Pivoting in a Pandemic**

Dr. Kimberly Clay, Chief Executive Officer, Play Like a Girl!

How do nonprofits adapt to a once-in-a-century event? This is a question that has been at the forefront of our minds for the past several months. Relying on a grassroots team of two, Play Like a Girl has developed and

scaled a new virtual mentoring program with help from LinkedIn, while putting the safety and well-being of their over 1,300 new participants as the highest priority.

Dr. Kim will discuss how Play Like a Girl has navigated these challenging times and setup the organization to handle adversity. Attendees will learn how they are planning for the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic and what adjustments they have made as to keep the organization thriving.

**Level:** Intermediate

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## **1:30-2:20 p.m.**

### **Nonprofit and Business Partnership Discussions**

Anneliese Barron, Philanthropy Consultant, Barron & Co

Maria Down, Specialist, Cause Marketing and Social Responsibility, Discovery Inc

Alyson Gallaher, Executive Director, Volunteer East Tennessee

Melissa McWilliams, Development Director, Fannie Battle Day Home for Children

For nonprofits and businesses engaging in discussions considering or continuing partnerships, this session will look at what questions and topics should be part of the conversation. CSR and Nonprofit panelists will speak on how to be successful in finding partners, how to address issues, marketing and development considerations and what helps companies and nonprofits make partnership decisions.

*This CSR Track session is open to all conference attendees, providing an opportunity for both business and nonprofit attendees to come together and learn about this topic.*

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## **2:30-3:30 p.m.**

### **Networking Session & Closing Remarks**

Join this networking session for an opportunity to break out and rotate into smaller groups to engage and connect with fellow conference attendees.

Amy Stewart, Tennessee Residence Director for the Office of the First Lady will also share information on First Lady Maria Lee's Tennessee Serves initiative and the TN Serves Kids Summer Service Challenge.

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## **Student Track**

### **2:30-5:30 p.m.**

*Volunteer Tennessee is proud to present the conference Student Track. Planned by students, the track features workshops specifically by and for middle, high school, and college students.*

## **2:30- 3:05 p.m.**

### **DEFINE \* SEEK. \* SERVE**

Bryanna Lanphear, Beacon Academy Student

Emma Todosichuk, Beacon Academy Student

In this session, Beacon Academy Students will focus on ideas of how to incorporate service-learning, community service and volunteerism in a socially distant world.

**3:20-3:55 p.m.**

**Serving Through the Four H's**

Carlin Cochran, Tennessee 4-H State Council

Tim Held, Tennessee 4-H State Council

Natalee Sturgill, Tennessee 4-H State Council

Join Tennessee 4-H All Stars to learn more about the service component of 4-H and how they've continued to serve in the midst of a pandemic.

**4:10-5:30 p.m.**

**Students and Service: A Collaborative Session**

Students are invited to join for this session which will provide an opportunity for students to connect virtually over discussions of service and how students can make an impact. The session will start with speakers who will make remarks on student service. Speakers will include:

Kirra Menees

Volunteer Coordinator, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville

Carla Parker

JustServe.org



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# Corporate Social Responsibility Agenda (Closed Meeting)

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**Monday, February 8**

TIME	EVENT
8:45-9:00 a.m.	Welcome Remarks from Volunteer Tennessee
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Session 1: How to Effectively Engage Your Company (and Employees) in CSR Efforts
10:15-11:15 a.m.	Session 2: The Why of DEI Work in Organizations and Best Practices for Building an Impactful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative
11:20-11:45 a.m.	Networking Session
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Break
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Session 3: CSR During and After COVID-19
1:30-2:20 p.m.	Session 4: Nonprofit and Business Partnership Discussions*

*The CSR Track sessions are intended for business/corporate attendees. Only those who registered for the Corporate Social Responsibility Track option will have access to the CSR sessions, with the exception of Session 4, which is open to all conference attendees.*

## CSR Session Details

**8:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome remarks from Volunteer Tennessee followed by  
SESSION 1: How to Effectively Engage Your Company (and Employees) in  
CSR Efforts**

Beth Bazar, Community Relations Program Manager, Buckman International  
Beverly Perkins, Supervisor, Corporate Social Responsibility, Memphis Light Gas and Water  
Chelsea Peterson, Director of Client and Community Relations, PNC Tennessee

In this session, CSR professionals will share trends and tips that make for an effective and quantifiable CSR Program. CSR initiatives like volunteer and giving programs also have the strong potential to increase employee satisfaction if well-executed. Presenters will also focus on ideas, tools, and best practices for improving employee engagement.

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**10:15-11:15 a.m.**

**SESSION 2: The Why of DEI Work in Organizations and Best Practices for  
Building an Impactful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative**

Candace Warner, Ph.D.  
Founder/Lead Consultant for people3, Inc.  
Professor of Sociology at Columbia State Community College

Dr. Candace Warner, CEO of people3, Inc. and Professor of Sociology at Columbia State, will present best practices on organizational inclusion strategies and the WHY of DEI work—why diverse teams provide a value add for organizations and strategies for building impactful DEI programs.



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**11:20-11:45 a.m.**

**Networking Session**

Join for this session which will break out participants into smaller groups to connect on conversations about CSR efforts.

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**11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

**Break**

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**12:15-1:15 p.m.**

**SESSION 3: CSR During and After COVID-19**

Velvet Graham, Senior Director, Events, Community Relations and Culture & Inclusion, Terminix  
Chelsea C. Johnson, Director, Community Relations & Foundations, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee  
Kim Sasser Hayden, Senior Manager, External Affairs, Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.

This session will focus on how COVID has impacted CSR efforts and what companies are doing in response. The session will also highlight remote and virtual volunteer ideas for employees and ideas to support nonprofits.

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**1:30-2:20 p.m.**

**SESSION 4: Nonprofit and Business Partnership Discussions**

Anneliese Barron, Philanthropy Consultant, Barron & Co  
Maria Down, Specialist, Cause Marketing and Social Responsibility, Discovery Inc  
Alyson Gallaher, Executive Director, Volunteer East Tennessee  
Melissa McWilliams, Development Director, Fannie Battle Day Home for Children

For nonprofits and businesses engaging in discussions considering or continuing partnerships, this session will look at what questions and topics should be part of the conversation. CSR and Nonprofit panelists will speak on how to be successful in finding partners, how to address issues, marketing and development considerations and what helps companies and nonprofits make partnership decisions.

*This session is open to all conference attendees, providing an opportunity for both business and nonprofit attendees to come together and learn about this topic.*

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# Tuesday, February 9

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## Higher Education Faculty Track Agenda

TIME	EVENT	
9:00-9:50 a.m.	Serving Virtually in the Online Classroom	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #1
10:05-10:55 a.m.	Am I Crazy to Do This? Employing Last Minute Service-Learning Opportunities into a Course	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #2
11:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	RD2B Tower Gardening Produce	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #3
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Break	
12:30-1:20 p.m.	Can You Teach Diversity? An Exercise in Education and Empowerment via Service-Learning	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #4
1:35-2:25 p.m.	Engaging Premier Partners to Promote Community Needs as well as Student Project Ideas	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #5
2:40-3:30 p.m.	20/20 Vision: Improving Community Literacy through Collaboration and Service	Higher Ed Faculty Track Session #6

### Tuesday Details

**9:00-9:50 a.m.**

#### Higher Education Faculty Track Session 1:

##### Serving Virtually in the Online Classroom

Melynda Conner, High Impact Practice Specialist, TBR: The College System of Tennessee

Isolation, quarantine, and the move to online classes have presented new opportunities to serve in virtual learning environments. Join us in this workshop to hear about the ways TBR faculty and staff have persevered to ensure service-learning remains an active high impact practice that continues to support student success even in these trying times. Participants will also be presented with new ideas from college campuses across the nation while discussing and exploring what might work best in their own classrooms.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**10:05-10:55 a.m.**

#### Higher Education Faculty Track Session 2:

##### Am I Crazy to Do This? Employing Last Minute Service-Learning Opportunities into a Course

Lauren Rudd, Associate Professor, Middle Tennessee State University

Service-learning opportunities seem to arise serendipitously, right at the beginning of the semester. Community folks must think of university students when they hear about their return to campus.

This workshop will use service-learning guidelines to help faculty to assess and to utilize these projects within an already prepared semester.

Wikipedia defines a heuristic technique as “any approach to problem solving or self-discovery that employs a practical method that is not guaranteed to be optimal, perfect, or rational, but is nevertheless sufficient for reaching an immediate, short-term goal or approximation.” That is exactly what needs to happen to be able to determine whether and how to use projects that are presented after a course is planned for the semester. This workshop will serve as a guide to make the project effective for students, and to help faculty develop a win/win project for both students and the community.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**11:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

### **Higher Education Faculty Track Session 3:**

#### **RD2B Tower Gardening Produce**

Elizabeth Smith, Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State University

Americans, including older adults, frequently consume low amounts of vegetables in their daily diet. Vegetables contribute to increased immunity and protection against disease. Vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals provided when these foodstuffs are eaten, may decrease mortality and improve health in older adults.

This workshop will focus on the logistics of an innovative tower garden project. Senior dietetic students planted, harvested, and distributed greens and herbs grown on two aeroponic tower gardens located in one of the classroom buildings on campus. Once a week, students harvested and bagged the produce and distributed their crop to older adults at the local senior center. Due to the pandemic the distribution was done via a drive through. In addition to the produce, the older adults received recipes and other educational handouts and information on such topics as how to use, dry, and store herbs.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**12:00-12:30 p.m.**

### **Break**

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**12:30-1:20 p.m.**

### **Higher Education Faculty Track Session #4:**

#### **Can You Teach Diversity? An Exercise in Education and Empowerment via Service-Learning**

Christina Hicks-Goldston, Associate Professor of Communication, Austin Peay State University

This presentation offers a model for teaching diversity online in a Communication course via a virtual Service-Learning project allowing students to share their voices, educate others, and contribute information about diversity issues for the community. Students created narrated presentations and videos about topics in diversity, with accompanying educational handouts/learning materials. The COMM 4050 Values Ethics and Diversity YouTube Channel was created to house the videos, and an online portfolio site titled “We Learn Together” was created to house lecture materials and links to the videos.

Both components were attached to the APSU Department of Communication and the COMM 4050 Values, Ethics, and Diversity course. Students created videos about the following topics: (1) Black Lives Matter; (2) Asian Americans and Media “Whitewashing”; (3) #MeToo; (4) Portrayals/Representation of Disabilities in Popular Culture; (5) Transgender Women and Homeless Shelters; (6) Native American Representation in Media; (7) Stereotyping of Latina Women.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**1:35-2:25 p.m.**

**Higher Education Faculty Track Session #5:**

**Engaging Premier Partners to Promote Community Needs as well as Student Project Ideas**

Tracey Farr, Academic Coordinator for Service-Learning, Pellissippi State Community College

Taking partnership development to the next level by working with existing agencies that are membership based and strongly connected to community agencies. This partnership can become an added value to their agency member benefits, by giving them direct access to student volunteers to meet their current needs. When students have an idea, they can promote it to their vast network, and when there is a pressing community need, the students and faculty can be kept in the loop.

**Level:** Intermediate

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**2:40-3:30 p.m.**

**Higher Education Faculty Track Session #6:**

**20/20 Vision: Improving Community Literacy through Collaboration and Service**

Kelly Ormsby, Associate Professor, English, Volunteer State Community College

Penelope Duncan, Chair of the Education Program, Volunteer State Community College

Teri Terranova, Teaching and Learning Librarian, Volunteer State Community College

According to the National Institute for Literacy, over 20% of adults in Tennessee read at a level 1, meaning they lack the literacy skills to perform the basic reading tasks needed for day-to-day life. Recent data also shows that a little more than a third of Tennessee's students are reading at grade level. We see these impacts on college access, where those fortunate enough to reach the gate face remedial/developmental course requirements in increasing numbers and literacy remains a stumbling block to success. This interactive presentation will engage attendees in working to address this crisis while sharing the story of Volunteer State's Read Across America project, providing participants with a sustainable and scalable service-learning model for promoting literacy and equity in our communities through interdisciplinary collaboration, while adapting to the increased challenges resulting from COVID-19.

**Level:** Intermediate

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The Student Track Committee:  
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Bryan Odom, University School of Nashville  
Sydney Smith, Central Magnet School  
Jadyn Sheats, University School of Nashville



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